

USAFA's Essence v4.0

The recently released USAF Strategy sets our course to adapt to a changing future. There are direct ties to our mission at USAFA. We are well poised to support this strategy, as we produce innovative, agile, inclusive, committed leaders, ready to fight the modern fight.

- Our purpose at USAFA is to produce exceptionally well-prepared officers to lead in a complex, challenging, technically sophisticated and evolving geopolitical environment.
- Each of the Air Force's commissioning sources produce excellent officers. **USAFA's strength stems from the breadth and depth of our offerings, and our cadet immersion in Air Force culture and values.**
- The Academy offers a broad spectrum of academic, athletic, aviation and military training, education, and experiences unlike any other commissioning source. **Every experience is purposefully guided by the essential elements of the USAFA experience – the Essence:**
 - **Developing Character and Leadership** – Cadets exercise leadership every day. Their experiences are energized by theory and scholarship from the Center for Character and Leadership Development, guided by the honor code, and implemented across all USAFA mission elements.
 - **Focusing on the AF Missions in Air, Space, and Cyberspace** – Airmanship, cyber, and space experiences expose cadets to the modern battlefield, developing an operational mindset and systemic appreciation for the AF core missions, better preparing cadets for future careers.
 - **Internalizing the AF Ethos** – Cadets apply AF values, standards, and traditions to internalize the behaviors and characteristics of professional officers.
 - **Immersing cadets in a total Experience** – Cadets are immersed in the traditions and values of the service, while earning a Bachelor of Science degree.
 - **Exposing cadets to our AF Professional Culture** – More than half of all faculty and staff are currently serving or retired from the military. Exposing cadets to uniformed military and career civil servants enriches their understanding of AF careers and culture.
 - **Harmonizing STEM and liberal arts** – Theoretical, abstract thinking (Humanities and Sciences) coupled with applied problem solving (Social Sciences and Engineering) equips USAFA graduates to solve technological, organizational, and personnel challenges.
 - **Competing** – Intramural, club, and intercollegiate competition by all cadets demands commitment, enhances their determination, and teaches invaluable life lessons.
 - **Maintaining an Exemplary Installation** – USAFA is a National Historic Landmark campus that demonstrates the excellence of an operational AF base, while satisfying security requirements.
- **USAFA plans to deliver this essence – what we do – innovatively by:**
 - Fostering a culture of commitment and strong climate of respect energized by the emerging national-level Center for Character and Leadership Development
 - Balancing core requirements with specialized learning and exposure to AF mission areas including Airmanship, Space, and Cyber Ops via a rigorous, accredited curriculum
 - Increasing cadet responsibility and accountability, refining cadet schedules, and offering new opportunities for growth through internships, externships, and exchanges
 - Adopting a disciplined approach when evaluating USAFA experiences and programs to identify innovations that leverage the USAFA brand and alumni base